

CIRCULAR

OF THE

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PEOPLE'S COLLEGE,

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

AND

ACT OF INCORPORATION, PASSED APRIL 12th, 1853.

NEW YORK:
WYNKOOP, HALLENBECK & THOMAS, PRINTERS,
113 FULTON STREET
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PEOPLE'S COLLEGE.

THIS Institution, of which a brief account here follows, was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, April 13th, 1854, and was located at the village of Havana, in Schuyler county, N. Y., January 8th, 1857.

COLLEGE EDIFICE.

This will be spacious and imposing. Its length will be 320 feet, and its width 52 feet. It will be four stories high, with a basement. At either end will be a wing 206 feet long, 52 feet wide, and four stories high.

From the centre will be a wing projecting rereward 68 feet; 64 feet wide, and three stories high. The building will be surmounted by a cupola of an octagonal form, 36 feet in diameter and extending upwards 50 feet from the apex of the roof. A cupola is also to be placed on each of the end wings. The basement walls of the structure are to be of stone; the remaining portion of the walls are to be of brick.

This building will contain a chapel of a capacity to seat thirteen hundred persons; 16 lecture rooms; 47 rooms for the president, professors, secretary, treasurer, &c., and 220 chambers for students, each being arranged for the accommodation of two persons. It will also contain a culinary department, and rooms for the steward, servants, &c. The estimated cost of it, when finished, is \$175,000.

PLAN OF THE COLLEGE.

It is the intention of the Trustees to make this Institution not only the best so far as practical knowledge is concerned, but to afford opportunities to all who may desire them, for obtaining as thorough a knowledge of all that pertains to science or literature, as any other institution in the world. The People's College is to be eminently

an educational Institution, and, as such, it will seek the attainment of its purpose by means which experience has proved to be the most appropriate. The Creator has subjected the human mind to laws, and its faculties must be developed and refined, not only by systematic practice, but by both systematic and definite practice. And, for the information some who of may have been solicitous on the subject, it is here added, that, in this College there will be taught, as means of mental discipline, full courses of study in pure and mixed Mathematics, in the ancient and modern Languages, Geography, History, Astronomy, Mechanics, Esthetics, Mental and Moral Philosophy and the Bible. As Lord Bacon has said, the Trustees of this College believe, that "*The sole cause and root of almost every defect in the sciences is, whilst we falsely admire and extol the powers of the human mind, we do not search for its real helps.*"

This College will be distinguished from others by giving prominence to studies, suited to qualify its graduates for discharging the practical duties of life, and to means of elevating labor.

The College is situated on a farm of 200 acres, adjoining the village of Havana, and within a few hundred rods of the centre of the village, in the near vicinity of churches, post-office, stores, hotels, &c., and suitable work-shops are to be attached. Here, then, the student who determines to become a farmer or a mechanic, may study agriculture by laboring on the farm under the direction of a practical scientific farmer, from two to four hours of each of five days in every week, or may pursue the business of his choice, under a practical mechanic, for the same number of hours; and devote the remaining portion of each day to such branches of study as are most essentially necessary to the future business of his life; or to the common and higher branches of a literary course.

With the aid of machinery and material, it is believed, that students in the mechanical department may not only become better mechanics in the same term of apprenticeship, than at our shops as now conducted, and obtain the education so essential to their future success in life, but that they may, from the avails of their labor, defray a large proportion, if not all, the expenses incurred in the course; obtaining thus the satisfaction to know, that they have worked their way through college, got a trade, and have been graduated independent men. And the same remarks, with no modification in the principle, will apply to students in the agricultural department.

Here, likewise, persons of mature life, and such as do not desire to pursue a regular course of study in the college, either the more extended or an abbreviated course, may resort to secure the advantages of the regular courses of Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry, Geology, Mechanics, and the Sciences generally (providing the means of doing it, if they choose, by working on the farm or in the shops), and become familiar with those branches of science most essential in their respective avocations.

MOTIVES WHICH HAVE PROMPTED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INSTITUTION.

a. The belief that moneys which will be expended on this Institution, would not, without its existence, be used to promote the cause of learning, and that many of the youth who will be educated here would never find a place within other college walls.

b. The fact that the important work to be done in this country, to sustain our various institutions, political, civil, domestic and religious, and to advance civilization, is to educate the people.

c. The belief that a modification of the college system of this country is required, to adapt it more perfectly to the wants of the time.

When Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Brown, Princeton, Bowdoin, and the other older Colleges of the country were established, it was for a state of society different from our own. Within the last half century the wealth of this nation has greatly increased. The field of the sciences has been much enlarged, and knowledge has been much augmented. What was theoretical is now made practical: all which manifestly combine to make mental discipline and scientific research, that might formerly be accounted of little advantage, necessary to the successful performance of the duties and business of life.

d. The complete success of Seminaries established in European countries for the promotion of the sciences and useful arts, on plans similar to that of the People's College.

e. Institutions of this character, it is perceived, generally established, would perfect our common school system, by affording ALL an opportunity of continuing their education while learning a trade or pursuing agriculture; thus remedying the great evil which now compels a large proportion of our youth to discontinue their scien-

tific and literary education at the age of twelve or fourteen years, in order to become farmers or mechanics.

MORAL INSTRUCTION.

This College is located on a farm in the country, removed from the corrupting influences of large cities. The Society will be composed of the Professors in the various departments and their families, together with the families of such as may locate in the immediate vicinity, for the purpose of educating their children, and the people of Havana, a village of about fifteen hundred inhabitants. Students will, therefore, be surrounded by a healthful moral influence and restraint, and every effort, suggested by Revelation, a knowledge of the human mind, and experience, will be made to give them a high-toned moral training.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

By a law of nature, it is made necessary that the young should have regular daily exercise, in a pure and healthful atmosphere, to properly develop the human system, and to establish such a strong and vigorous constitution as will enable them to endure excessive physical or mental labor, without permanently injuring health. This important branch of education is, from the necessity of the case, almost entirely omitted in our Colleges and higher Seminaries, and the result is, that many of the most diligent students graduate with an enfeebled constitution or broken health. To remedy this great defect, to elevate labor, and enable the poor to avail themselves of advantages heretofore chiefly enjoyed by the wealthy, our charter requires students and teachers to devote two hours each, of five days in every week, to bona fide labor, in some branch of productive industry.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

The College was organized on the 12th day of August, 1857, when the Rev. Amos Brown was chosen President. Funds have been subscribed to such an amount as to insure the rapid completion of the college edifice (the foundation walls of which are laid), and the speedy collection at Havana of the full College Faculty. The College, it is expected, will be in successful operation by the expiration of one year from next September. It is, however, an undertaking

necessarily requiring large outlays of money, and there is much to be done to complete it. The edifice will be costly, then shops are to be built, machinery, apparatus, library, cabinets, etc., to be supplied; and especially provision is to be made to sustain the College Faculty, which must be large, and, to answer the designs of the Institution, be composed of none but thoroughly educated and efficient men.

SITUATION AND ACCESS.

Havana is situated at the head of Seneca Lake, on the Chemung Railroad, which connects the villages of Elmira and Canandaigua. The Chemung Canal also passes through the place. The site is uncommonly picturesque and pleasing, as well as convenient of access from all parts of the country.

Passing now from this brief exposition of our purposes and plans, we solicit from all, who may read, a careful examination of our Charter; and if convinced that our plans are practicable, and, when carried out, will stimulate to a more general effort to obtain the advantages of mental discipline and useful knowledge, and will afford to many the benefits of an education, who, but for the College, could never obtain them, we ask them, as philanthropists, to lend their influence and "material aid" to complete the work; for, if such an Institution is desirable, why shall it not be, *at once*, built and endowed?

CHARTER.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. D. C. McCallum, Washington Hunt, George J. Pumpelly, J. R. Speed, S. S. Post, F. Price, David Reese, Gurdon Evans, Horace Greeley, James H. Snell, A. W. Jackson, Harrison Howard, William Morgan, T. Lindsley, A. I. Wynkoop, W. C. Rhodes, H. W. Smuller, James M. Ellis, Jamin F. Backus, William H. Banks, J. J. De Forest, J. G. Russell, Oliver G. Steele, Robert Green, and their associates, present or future, are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name of "The People's College," for the purpose of promoting literature, science, arts and agriculture.

§ 2. The said corporation shall have power to sue and to be sued, to make and use a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure, to hold real and personal property; but it shall not at any one time own real estate yielding an annual income exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars, and make and alter by-laws for the government of the said college, and its officers and students.

§ 3. The persons named in the first section of this act shall be the first trustees of the corporation, thirteen of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and they shall hold office for one year, and until others are appointed as hereinafter mentioned; and any vacancy which may occur in said board of trustees may be filled by them at any regular meeting of the said board. The president of the college, for the time being, shall be, ex-officio, a member of the board of trustees.

§ 4. The said board of trustees shall appoint the president, professors, and such other officers and instructors as they deem necessary; but no president, professor, or other officer of the college shall be appointed or removed, and no real estate bought or sold, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the board.

§ 5. The said corporation may grant to students under its charge, diplomas and honorary testimonials in such form as it may designate; but such diploma or honorary testimonial shall expressly specify the branches which the student has mastered, and those only. It may also confer such literary honors, degrees and diplomas as are usually conferred by any university, college, or seminary of learning in the United States, which diplomas shall entitle the possessors thereof to the immunities and privileges allowed by usage or statute to the possessors of like diplomas from any university, college or seminary of learning in the state, provided that no diploma shall be conferred but in conformity with the laws of the state in force at the time of conferring the same.

§ 6. The capital stock of said corporation shall consist of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which may be increased by a majority of the trustees, from time to time, to five hundred thousand dollars; the said stock shall be in shares of one dollar each, and every stockholder shall be entitled to but one vote in the choice of trustees, or any other business which may be determined by the votes of the stockholders.

§ 7. Whenever the sum of fifty thousand dollars shall be sub-

scribed and paid to the trustees of the said corporation, it shall be the duty of the said trustees to call a meeting of the said stockholders at some convenient place in the central part of the state, by giving to each one a written or printed notice of the time and place of meeting, at least four weeks previous to said meeting, by mailing the same direct to the recent post-office residence of each stockholder, and said stockholders may vote at all times by proxy, or in person, at the said meeting, or at any other meeting which may be called thereafter; it shall be the duty of the said stockholders, at the meeting so called as aforesaid, to elect by ballot three disinterested commissioners, whose duty it shall be to examine and select the most advantageous location for said college, and to report the result of their examination and selections to the said board of trustees within three months after their appointment, and it shall be the duty of said trustees to call a meeting of said stockholders in a manner aforesaid, by giving the same notice both in time and manner as before expressed, and if the selection of said commissioners shall be approved by the majority of the said stockholders, the said trustees shall proceed to purchase the necessary lands, and make the necessary buildings upon the site so selected; but if the majority of the said stockholders shall not ratify the selection of the said commissioners, then it shall be the duty of the said trustees, by a vote of at least three-fifths, to proceed and make such location, and to purchase lands and erect buildings as aforesaid.

§ 8. As soon as suitable accommodations are prepared for at least one hundred students, the said trustees shall organize the faculty of the said college by appointing a president, professors, teachers and other officers. It shall be the duty of the said trustees to so arrange the business and courses of instruction in said college, as to accomplish in the best possible manner:

1. The dissemination of practical science, including chemistry, geology, mineralogy and those sciences most immediately and vitally essential to agriculture and the useful arts, and to make ample provision for instruction in the classics.

2. To require that every pupil and teacher shall devote some hours each of five days in each week (excluding Sunday for worship and Saturday for recreation,) to bona fide labor in some branch of productive industry. The number of hours, however, which such student and teacher shall be required to labor in each week, shall in

no case exceed twenty, nor fall below ten, and each student shall be credited with and ultimately paid for the product of his labor, less the cost of qualifying him to perform it effectively.

3. To have agriculture, with the various branches of manufactures, and the mechanic arts, systematically prosecuted within the college and its grounds, and as a part of its regular course; and no student shall be permitted to graduate with honor until he pass a searching examination with regard to his proficiency in agriculture or some branch of manufacturing or mechanical industry, and every student shall be allowed (with the advice and consent of his parents and guardians and the faculty) to pursue such branches of learning as he may select, but the faculty shall implicitly require from each student a thorough mastery of those he may choose to follow, which shall be expressed in his diploma; and any student under this condition may prosecute his duties for so many terms only as under parental guidance may be deemed expedient.

4. These several foregoing subjections may be amended at all times by a majority vote of stockholders, except that the fundamental principles of finding work for and requiring of each pupil and teacher at least ten hours bona fide useful labor per week, and an earnest effort to master some industrial pursuits, shall be held irrevocable, except by a vote of all the stockholders taken by ayes and nays and the names of those voting duly recorded.

§ 9. On the second Wednesday in July, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, the first annual election of trustees shall be held at such convenient place as they may designate, of which election and the time and place thereof the said stockholders shall have at least thirty days' notice. The said trustees shall appoint two inspectors of the said election, whose duty it shall be to preside thereat, and to receive and count the ballots, and declare the result: and the poll of such election shall be held open from ten o'clock in the forenoon until four o'clock in the afternoon: and said trustees so elected as aforesaid shall meet on the second Wednesday of August, at the place of holding the annual meeting, and the president and secretary of such board shall divide the said trustees into six classes, and proceed to prepare the ballots corresponding to the said six classes, and the secretary shall place them properly folded into a box, and each trustee shall draw therefrom one ballot, and the ballot having upon it the one, shall designate the first class, whose

term of service shall expire in one year; and those having upon them two, shall designate the second class, whose term of service shall expire in two years; and those having upon them three, shall be designated as the third class, whose term of service shall expire in three years; and those having upon them four, shall be designated as the fourth class, whose term of service shall expire in four years; and those having upon them five, shall be designated as the fifth class, whose term of service shall expire in five years; and those having upon them six, shall be designated as the sixth class, whose term of service shall expire in six years, and it shall be the duty of the stockholders annually thereafter to elect four trustees in the place of those whose term of service will so expire as aforesaid, and all vacancies shall be filled in such annual election in the several classes wherein they may have occurred.

§ 10. This corporation shall possess the powers and be subjected to the provisions and restrictions contained in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the revised statutes.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Chapter 80 of Laws of 1857.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BY-LAWS OF THE TRUSTEES.

1. The Board of Trustees of the People's College shall hold meetings on the second Wednesday of November, February, May and August, at ten o'clock, A. M., at such place as a quorum of the Board may direct.

2. The Treasurer of the College shall give good and sufficient bonds, for the faithful performance of his duties.

3. The election of officers of the Board shall take place at the annual meeting in August; and the election shall be by ballot.

4. The annual election of Trustees by the stockholders of the College shall be had at the time and place of the annual meeting.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES.

AMOS BROWN, A. M., President, *Havana*.

D. C. McCALLUM, Chairman of the Board, *Owego*.

A. I. WYNKOOP, Vice Chairman, *Chemung*.

H. HOWARD, Secretary, *Binghamton*.

T. L. MINEER, Treasurer, *Havana*.

1st Class—George J. Pumpelly, *Owego* ; H. Howard, *Binghamton* ;
T. R. Morgan, *Binghamton* ; W. H. Banks, *Pine Valley*—

2d Class—W. R. Judson, *Elmira* ; S. Robertson, *Dryden* ; T. C.
Peters, *Darien* ; Charles Lee, *Penn Yan*.

3d Class—D. McCallum, *Owego* ; C. J. Chatfield, *Painted Post* ; A.
W. Jackson, *Binghamton* ; Horace Greeley, *New-York*.

4th Class—Edward Tompkins, *Binghamton* ; J. H. Snell, *Elmira* ;
H. S. Randall, *Cortlandville* ; John Magee, *Bath*.

5th Class—E. C. Frost, *Havana* ; Charles Cook, *Havana* ; Wash-
ington Hunt, *Lockport* ; Gurdon Evans, *Owego* ; A. I.
Wynkoop, *Chemung* ; D. S. Dickinson, *Binghamton*.

6th Class—W. T. Lawrence, *Cayutaville* ; David Rees, *Owego* ;
Roswell Holden, *Reading Centre* ; S. S. Post, *Jersey City*.

Executive Committee.—HON. CHARLES COOK, HON. WILLIAM T.
LAWRENCE, COL. E. C. FROST, A. I. WYNKOOP, Esq., W. H. BANKS,
Esq.

Committee of Finance.—HON. D. REESE, COL. CHARLES LEE, ROS-
WELL HOLDEN, Esq.

Building Committee.—HON. CHARLES COOK, HON. D. C. MCCAL-
LUM, COL. E. C. FROST, COL. CHARLES LEE, A. I. WYNKOOP, Esq.

Architect.—S. B. ELLIOTT.

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